

PRIMARY STROKE SERVICES TIME TARGET RECOMMENDATIONS

The following chart is provided to assist hospitals assess the timeliness of activities related to stroke evaluation and diagnosis. Some of the activities listed below will occur concurrently. The Department recognizes actual individual timeframes may vary, and individual time targets may not apply to all patients. However, the goal for the initiation of IV t-PA remains at one hour from the time of patient arrival in the Emergency Department.

Category	Recommendation	Time Targets ¹
Category I: <i>Ongoing data collection requirement</i>	ED door-to-needle time for IV thrombolytic (tPA) treatment	<i>within 60 min of patient arrival in ED</i>
	Time from door to CT scan or MRI scan performance	<i>within 25 min of admission</i>
Category II: <i>When delays in care are identified, use the time targets as part of a quality improvement drill-down to resolve the delays.</i>	Time from patient arrival at ED to notification of Acute Stroke Team (AST), i.e., making the call to the team	<i>within 15 min of arrival²</i>
	Time from completion of CT scan or MRI scan to interpretation by physician	<i>within 20 min of completion of scan</i>
	Time from order of ECG to performance through completion of ECG and interpretation	<i>within 45 min of being ordered</i>
	Time from order of lab tests to completion of tests, report of results, and interpretation	<i>within 45 min of being ordered</i>
	Time from notification of AST to response of team member by phone, video or at patient bedside to assess patient as appropriate	<i>within 15 min of being called</i>
	Time from order of chest X-Ray, if indicated, to performance through completion of chest X-Ray and interpretation	<i>within 45 min of being ordered</i>
	Time from order of neurosurgical evaluation to start of evaluation; includes transfer to another hospital for such evaluation, if applicable	<i>within 2 hours of being deemed clinically necessary</i>
	Neurosurgical intervention	<i>as needed urgently</i>

¹ Source of all time targets, unless otherwise noted, is "Recommendations for the Establishment of Primary Stroke Centers," JAMA 2000; 283:3102-3109.

² NINDS proceedings of national symposium on Rapid Identification and Treatment of Acute Stroke, August 1997